

Advancing a Tax and SDGs approach that builds trust and spurs transformation: present and possible future contributions by the UN Tax Committee

Virtual Panel Discussion and Launch Event

7 October 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (New York time)

Biographies of Speakers

Opening

Mr. Liu Zhemin



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Mr. Liu Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013). Mr. Liu brings to the position more than

30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues. More information can be found [here](#).

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile



His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile is currently the seventy-seventh President of the Economic and Social Council. Ambassador Vixen Kelapile is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations in New York. His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile has an accumulated career of 26 years in multilateral diplomacy, both as a government representative, intergovernmental expert and is also a former United Nations (UN) Secretariat staff member. Amongst his previous assignments are his position as Chief of Staff to the Executive-Secretary of the UN Economic

Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as the Deputy Director in the Department of Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana overseeing Central, East, North and West Africa as well as the Middle East. He was elected by the UN General Assembly as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) from 2004 to 2012 and prior to this was posted at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana in New York from 1998 to 2003, where he rose through diplomatic ranks from Second Secretary to level of Counsellor prior to his successful election to ACABQ in 2003. More information can be found [here](#).

H.E. Mr. Odd-Inge Kvalheim



Odd-Inge Kvalheim took up his post as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations on 26 August 2019. His previous position was Special Envoy and Ambassador for Norway to Small Islands Developing States. Ambassador Kvalheim has served in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1991. He has held posts as Ambassador to the African Union and Ethiopia, as well as Minister at Norway's Embassy in Washington DC. He has previously served as a diplomat at the Mission of Norway to the United Nations in New York, and Norway's Embassies in Berlin, London and Abidjan. He has been a Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, and was the International Secretary for the Norwegian Labour Party from 2014 to 2017. Odd-Inge has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada; and pursued graduate level studies in Management at the Norwegian School of Business and Economics.

Launch of publications

Ms. Carmel Peters



Ms. Carmel Peters is a Strategic Policy Lead at Inland Revenue, New Zealand. She works primarily in international taxation and negotiates New Zealand's double tax agreements. From 2017 to 2021, Ms. Peters was the Co-chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. Ms. Peters holds a Master's Degree in Law (Taxation), New York University, USA and a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr. Eric Mensah



Mr. Eric Nii Yarboi Mensah is a former Assistant Commissioner in charge of Legal Affairs and International Taxation Agreements at the Ghana Revenue Authority. He is currently a Consultant on international tax and the taxation of natural resources. From 2017 to 2021, Mr. Mensah was the Co-chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and a coordinator of the Tax Committee's Subcommittee on Extractives Industry Taxation for Developing Countries.

Panel discussion

Ms. Liselott Kana



Ms. Liselott Kana is the current Head of the Department of International Taxation, Internal Revenue Service, Chile. Prior to that, she served as the Head of the Department of Free Trade of the Americas and held positions at the Directorate of International Economic Relations, Ministry of External Relations, Foreign Investment Committee, Ministry of Economy and Tax Department as well as with Arthur Andersen & Co., London. Ms. Kana currently serves on the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law, University of Stockholm, Sweden, and a Master's Degree in Law, London School of Economics.

Mr. Logan Wort



Mr Logan Wort is the Executive Secretary of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF); a multilateral organisation of Heads of African Revenue Administrations, based in Pretoria, South Africa. As the ES of ATAF, Mr Wort is the organisation’s chief executive officer, responsible for its overall management, strategy and operations. A Sitting Member of the Council of ATAF, Mr Wort is amongst the founding figures of the organisation, having headed the Task Team which worked towards the establishment of ATAF in November 2009. Since joining ATAF, he has spearheaded Tax administration reforms across the continent and continues to do so, not only in his capacity as head of ATAF’s Secretariat, but also as a Member of the Consortium of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows of the UNECA and as a regular participant to the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the Global Forum for Transparency and Exchange of Information meetings. Prior to joining ATAF, Mr Wort served as Group Executive at the South African Revenue Service, Deputy Director General at the South African National Treasury and Chief Operating Officer in the Ministry of Finance of South Africa. Mr Wort also served as the Director of the Finance and Investment Sector Coordinating Unit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Mr Wort holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of the Western Cape and bachelor’s degree in political sciences.

Mr. Márcio F. Verdi



Mr. Márcio F. Verdi is the Executive Secretary, Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT). Mr. Verdi is an economist and tax auditor with a distinguished career in the “Secretaria da Receita de Brasil”. He is chiefly interested in economics and tax policy, above all. In CIAT, before being designated Executive Secretary, he was responsible for the Directorate of Tax Studies and the Operations Directorate.

Ms. Joy Waruguru Ndubai



Ms. Ndubai is currently engaged as a Research and Teaching Associate at the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law, Vienna University of Economics and Business. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Law from the School of Oriental Studies, University of London and a Master’s Degree in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She has previously worked for ActionAid Denmark, Oxfam and KPMG.

Ms. Tove Maria Ryding



Ms. Ryding currently works in the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad) as the Policy and Advocacy Manager for Tax Justice. She joined Eurodad in March 2013 as a Senior Policy Analyst and now leads the tax and transparency work. She plays a key role in the coordination of the tax related work of the Civil Society FfD Group and is one of two elected representatives for Tax Justice Europe in the coordinating committee of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice. Before joining Eurodad, Ms. Ryding worked with Greenpeace International as a coordinator for climate policy. She has also been chair of the Danish 92 Group for over 5 years and head of the Danish NGO Forests of the World for 3 years. She speaks Danish, Swedish and English.

Mr. Francis Kamau



Mr. Kamau currently leads the tax service line in East Africa at EY. His career spans over 18 years in tax advisory, transaction tax, tax compliance and training work in Kenya and the Eastern African region for banking, insurance, manufacturing, industrial, energy, telecommunication and international lending organizations. He is adept at tax dispute resolution and has influenced tax law through sustained contribution through the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), Parliamentary Committees, Kenya Bankers Association and Kenya Association of Manufacturers. Mr. Kamau holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and is a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya (CPA-K). He is a former member of Public Finance Committee of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) and is a board member of Centre for Public Finance and Tax under sponsorship of ICPAK.

Closing

Mr. Navid Hanif



Navid Hanif is the Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). He joined UNDESA in 2001; until 2003, he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UNDESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He worked as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, he was sent on a special one year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. He worked there as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established DESA Strategic Planning Unit. He served as Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (June 2012 – February 2018). Mr. Hanif holds Masters in International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York and Masters in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.

Mr. Michael Lennard



Michael Lennard is Chief of International Tax Cooperation and Trade in the Financing for Development Office (FfDO) of the United Nations. This work has a particular focus on ensuring the fairness and workability of international tax norms, including achieving greater developing country input into those norms, and encouraging cooperation to improve tax systems and administrations, as a spur to sustained development. Previously Mr Lennard was a tax treaty adviser in the OECD Tax Treaty Secretariat in Paris for three years and prior to that he worked on tax treaty and other international tax matters at the Australian Tax Office. He had earlier worked in the Australian government's Office of International Law. He has led Australian negotiating teams on trade, investment, environmental and tax treaty matters and has prepared argument for matters before the Australian High Court, the US Supreme Court and the WTO. His published work on treaty interpretation has been cited before WTO panels and before the WTO Appellate Body. Mr Lennard has degrees from the University of Tasmania, the Australian National University and Cambridge.